



# City of Seattle

Mike McGinn, Mayor

## Seattle Human Rights Commission

Roslyn Solomon, Chair

December 21, 2010

Honorable Mike McGinn, Mayor  
Seattle City Hall  
600 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98124

**Re: Support for Federal Investigation of the Seattle Police Department**

Dear Mayor McGinn:

The Seattle Human Rights Commission is concerned about Seattle Police Department (SPD) officers' use of force in a number of recent interactions with Seattle residents.

As you know, a number of community organizations share this concern. On December 3, 2010 the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) and 34 Seattle community and civil rights organizations asked the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (Civil Rights Division) to conduct a federal investigation into the pattern and practices of the SPD.

The ACLU letter documents a disturbing number of incidents involving alleged excessive force by SPD officers on residents of Seattle, especially on persons of color. These incidents have had a profound and negative impact on Seattle's communities of color. As members of a commission specifically charged with protecting the needs and concerns of vulnerable populations, we are troubled about the impact of these incidents on the city. We know you are too.

The Civil Rights Division has a demonstrated history of collaboratively working with police departments to improve their operations, policies, training, and community relations. We believe that the Civil Rights Division's involvement would strengthen public trust in our City's government and SPD in particular. To that end, we would like you to formally support the ACLU's request for a federal investigation of the SPD, and forward that endorsement to Attorney General Eric Holder, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez and United States Attorney Jenny Durkan.

Thank you.

Roslyn Solomon, Chair  
Seattle Human Rights Commission